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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY

Poland

SUBJECT

Soviet Naval Vessels near Swinoujscie
(Swinemünde)

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1. At 0800 on 27 May 1954, it was observed that at least 20 groups of four buoys each were moored across the western approach channel to Swinemuende, on the stretch from Buoy No. 1 to Buoy No. 2. The first buoys of each group were about 500 meters apart. The buoys were painted red or yellow and had orange-red cones on each. The cones looked like aerial bomb fins. Soviet minesweepers [redacted] cruised up and down between these buoys with their sweeping equipment on. The vessels left behind long stripes of foam. They seemed to proceed at top speed, as they belched thick smoke, but actually they made only about 4 knots. Each vessel had a tow rope with a cable suspended from it. Five stripes of foam in line were seen in the water, followed by three stripes abreast, two groups of four larger stripes abreast, [redacted] and four smaller foam stripes behind them. [redacted]
2. At 1200 on 27 May 1954, a war vessel [redacted] with another, smaller sea police vessel, close to it, were riding at anchor on Swinemuende Roads. At 1700 the two vessels put into Swinemuende harbor.
3. At 1700 on 27 May 1954, a loud detonation was heard near the wreck in position 54°1'30" N/14°25' E. At the same time, vessel [redacted] left Swinemuende on an east-northeasterly course. Vessel [redacted] put into Swinemuende, coming from the east. Three PT boats, [redacted] were observed leaving Swinemuende headed for leading buoy Swinemuende West. They flew the Soviet ensign. At the yard, the boats carried an UNCODED rod with small attachments similar to a dipole antenna in lieu of the pear-shaped radar boomers with which the PT boats generally are equipped. The three boats bore a 2 x 2 meter yellow cloth target mounted on a small alidade. They subsequently laid a smoke screen and fire bursts of light. At 1800 the PT boats were later heard at short intervals. At 1800 the PT boats put back into Swinemuende.
4. At 0900 on 28 May 1954, vessels Nos. 282 through 286 and Nos. 343 and 344 were sighted again between buoy Nos. 2 and 1 in the Swinemuende approach channel. At 1500, Soviet minesweepers [redacted] were seen towing sweeping equipment between them.

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